

THIRTY-THIRD
ANNUAL * REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

TO THE

Rural District Council of Louth,

For the Year 1905,

BY

CHARLES J. MYERS, M.R.C.S. & L.S.A.,


Medical Officer of Health, Louth Rural Sanitary District,
Surgeon to the Louth Hospital, and Medical Officer to the Louth
District and Workhouse of the Louth Union.

LOUTH :

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LOUTH

Rural Sanitary District.

Thirty-Third Annual Medical Report.

To the Chairman and Members of the Public
Health Acts Committee.

GENTLEMEN,

The number of deaths registered this year has been 245 ; being 12 less than last year, and 25 less than the average of the preceding 10 years. The number of notifications of infectious disease has been 46, or 24 less than last year. The death rate per thousand has been 13·2, against 13·9 last year, and ·8 less than the average of the preceding 10 years. 47 infants died before they were a year old, being at the rate of 110 per thousand births ; this is not so good as last year, when only 32 died at this age, but compares favourably with the average of the preceding 10 years, when it was 53. 17 children died between the ages of one and 5 years. 209 boys and 219 girls were born, making a total of 428, or 17 more than last year, against an average of 467 the previous 10 years. The natural increase of population was 222.

Further particulars of the births and deaths will be found in Tables I. and II., and of the deaths only in Tables IV. and V., in the Appendix. The death rates per thousand, in the Sub-Districts, have been as follows : Binbrook 11·0, Louth 10·5, Saltfleet 13·9, Tetney 14·1, and Withern 16·5. The general death rate in the Saltfleet Sub-District has considerably improved over the previous two years, but the mortality from Phthisis is still double that of any of the others. The deaths from Phthisis in the whole district have been 14, or one less than last year. It is gratifying to find that only 11 have succumbed to Cancer, against 21 and 20 the two previous years.

EPIDEMIC INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There have been 46 notifications, against 70 last year. When an infectious case is notified, steps are at once taken to find out the cause and remove it ; instructions are given as to isolation, disinfection, etc., and disinfectants usually supplied. When the Medical Attendant reports that the patient has

sufficiently recovered, the house is disinfected by the Inspector. When necessary, the Day School is closed, and is disinfected before re-opening. There is no isolation hospital, as the houses are so scattered, that it is thought unnecessary. The following were the numbers of each disease notified during the year, viz.:

Scarlatina or Scarlet Fever	...	...	18
Diphtheria	...	...	12
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	...	...	11
Erysipelas	...	...	5
Total			46

For these cases, arranged according to diseases, ages, and districts, see Table III. in the Appendix.

The deaths from zymotic disease were as follows :—

Measles	...	...	...	1
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	1
Diphtheria	...	...	...	3
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	2
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	8
Diarrhœa	...	...	...	3
Total			...	18

or 0·9 per thousand.

SCARLET FEVER.—There were 18 notifications, against 30 last year. It has appeared in 11 parishes, and in 4 out of the 5 districts. Cases were reported in 8 months out of the 12. It has not become epidemic, and in only 3 instances did more than one case occur in a house. The disease has been of a very mild type, only one death having occurred. Solitary cases appeared in parishes several miles apart, at, or about the same time, with no traceable communication between them. A young woman coming on a visit to Theddlethorpe from Yorkshire, the beginning of May, apparently brought the disease with her, and infected her two sisters; they all recovered and the disease did not spread in the parish. It is often difficult to prevent patients mixing with other persons whilst in an infectious state; and in one case where this occurred, a threat of prosecution, in case of a repetition of the act, became necessary.

DIPHTHERIA.—There were 12 cases, against 18 last year; and 3 deaths, against 5. 4 cases were notified in one house at Waith Top, one being fatal; sanitary defects were found on the premises, and reported to you; these have been remedied. The Medical Attendant thought that very likely the infection arose from two kittens that died from some throat trouble. A mild case occurred in May at Withern, no sanitary defects could be discovered. Two fatal cases occurred at Legbourne in June; in

one of them sanitary defects were found, and being brought to your notice, were put right by your orders. A case occurred at Alvingham the beginning of October. As the patient had been out threshing in many different places, it was thought he might have contracted the disease in one of them. In December, 3 cases were notified in a house at Marshchapel. The Inspector and I examined the premises, but found nothing wrong. The parents blamed the school, which I found in an insanitary condition, and reported it as such, to the Chairman of the Managing Committee, and to you. This you brought to the notice of the County Council, who have since abandoned the building, and rented a suitable one.

TYPHOID OR ENTERIC FEVER.—This disease has been of a milder type, only 2 deaths having occurred, against 5. 11 cases were notified, being one more than last year. Cases have occurred at Stenigot, Aby, Tathwell, Tetney Lock, Withern, and North and South Thoresby. Careful inspection of the premises revealed no sanitary defects, and the water proved good on analysis. A young woman at Theddlethorpe was taken with the disease soon after visiting in Nottinghamshire. A child at Cadwell apparently contracted it by frequently inhaling the effluvia from a blocked-up sink; this was duly remedied. A little girl at Little Carlton was taken with the disease while visiting out of the district. In no instance has any other person in the same house or the same parish taken the Fever.

WHOOPING COUGH was fatal to 8 children, 6 being under a year old. The previous year there were only 2 deaths, but in 1902 there were 7, and in 1903, 8. It has been epidemic in the Carltons, South Willingham, Hainton, Cockerington, Fulstow, Marshchapel, and Binbrook, the schools having to be closed once, and in the case of Fulstow twice. It has also appeared at North Cotes and Ludford.

MEASLES has caused much inconvenience through becoming epidemic in many parishes, and necessitating the closing of the schools. This occurred at Saltfleet, Aby, Withern, Swaby, North Somercotes, Burgh, and Kelstern. It was fatal in one case only. German Measles became epidemic at Conisholme in March, and the school had to be closed.

ERYSIPELAS.—Single cases have been notified at Gayton-le-Marsh, North Thoresby (in two houses), Strubby, and Fulstow. The drainage was examined in each case, and being found defective in two instances was duly remedied. There was no death.

INFLUENZA caused 9 deaths. The mortality was nearly equally distributed in each Sub-District, excepting that there were no deaths in Withern. The schools at Withcall and

Marshchapel had to be closed at the beginning of the year, because of the great prevalence of the disease.

SANITARY WORK.

I propose to summarize the other sanitary work done during the year. Both the Inspector and I have made systematic inspections of the district. The following is the Inspector's report :—

- 185 notices have been served for the abatement of nuisances.
- 50 houses have been cleansed and disinfected.
- 24 schools have been disinfected.
- 30 house drains have been repaired and put into sanitary condition.
- 11 new privies have been built.
- 30 foul ditches have been cleaned out.
- 18 heaps of refuse removed.
- 13 wells cleaned out.
- 10 new wells have been constructed.

WATER SUPPLY.

There are no water works in the district, none being necessary. The supply is chiefly by pumps, from artesian wells and overflowing springs, but there are a few surface wells. Each house, or set of houses, is supplied according to circumstances, some of the Wold villages having their water pumped up by rams. The water is generally good. Where it is impure in any way, action is taken by your orders to secure a wholesome supply. Care is also taken that, as respects each house, wholesome drinking water is obtainable at a reasonable distance. I have analysed 54 samples of drinking water during the year, 6 of which were bad, and 7 impure in a minor degree.

DRAINAGE.

The district is wholly rural; part being inland, and part maritime. About half of it is flat, and called "marsh"; although, through being properly drained, it has ceased to be marshy. The other half forms part of the Wolds, and so is very hilly. The houses are very scattered, there being 88 parishes, with, at the last census, 4,430 inhabited houses, spread over 140,000 acres, consequently very few systems of drainage are required, the houses being drained according to their position and surroundings, and the requirements of each individual case. A systematic inspection of the district is carried on throughout the year, the Inspector visiting from 20 to 30 houses daily. The sewage, house refuse, and excrement are all disposed of by being mixed with the land, either in the gardens or fields. Generally, cesspools are made, the overflow going into the nearest dyke.

These cesspools when full are cleaned out, and the sludge mixed with the land. Should the overflow from the cesspool make the dyke offensive, it is cleaned out, and the offensive matter mixed with the land. If there is no cesspool, the refuse is put on the garden. There is no scavenging. All the notices for the abatement of nuisances have been effectual, where there has been time for them to mature. Complaints being made in the spring that the stream running through Binbrook was polluted by the effluent from the filter bed, the Inspector and I finding, after thoroughly examining the action of the filter bed and its surroundings, that it did not work satisfactorily, decided to visit the sewage disposal works at Alford, Brigg, Wainfleet, Skegness, and Davyhulme, near Manchester, to obtain the latest information and to see the best schemes of sewage disposal in actual operation. After doing so, we proposed a scheme we thought would effectually meet the difficulty with the least expense. This you very carefully examined, and took steps to carry out. The storm water is now not allowed to mix with the sewage, or enter the sewage-tanks. This and other changes that have been made have resulted in the production of a much better effluent, and will much improve the condition of the village. Part of the drainage at Legbourne being found unsatisfactory, you appointed a sub-committee, which recommended an alteration, this being carried out, has proved a great improvement. The systems of drainage worked by your authority at North Somercotes, Ludford Parva, Aby, and Holton-le-Clay, have had due attention.

HOUSE ACCOMMODATION.

Five new houses have been built at Tetney, 2 at Grainthorpe, and 3 at Holton-le-Clay. Four cottages have been condemned as unfit for habitation, and will be replaced by new ones.

SCHOOLS.

The sanitary condition of the schools has had my careful attention, and I have had to point out defects in some cases. The insanitary temporary school at Marshchapel is now disused and the permanent structure occupied. Great Carlton and Tathwell schools are about to be improved and made more sanitary. 18 schools have had to be temporarily closed because of epidemics of infectious disease. In November, at the request of the Louth and District Educational Council, I read a paper on "School Hygiene," in the Town Hall, in which I pointed out how in certain respects the sanitary condition of the schools might be improved and the children's health promoted.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

The Manure Works at North Thoresby, Binbrook, Marsh-chapel, and Ludford Parva, have worked satisfactorily on the whole.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, AND MILKSHOPS.

These, which number 26, have each been twice inspected during the year, and been found satisfactory.

THE FACTORY & WORKSHOPS' ACT, 1901.

This Act has very little operation in this district, which is wholly rural ; it applies however to bakehouses. The Inspector and I have made 55 inspections of these during the year, and find a general compliance with the provisions of the Act. None of them are underground. Section 22 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, has been adopted by you, but no standard of sufficiency and suitability of sanitary accommodation for persons employed in factories and workshops has been found necessary.

CONSUMPTION.

The dwellings of all who have died of this disease have been disinfected, and the Inspector has explained to the relatives why this is necessary, and has given them a copy of the leaflet, prepared by me, pointing out the precautions necessary to prevent the spread of the disease.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the Chairman and Members of the Committee for their continued kindness and courtesy to me during the year.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

CHARLES J. MYERS, M.R.C.S. & L.S.A.,

Medical Officer of Health.

February 16th, 1906.

APPENDIX.

TABLE I. RURAL DISTRICT OF LOUTH (for whole district).

YEAR. 1	Population estimated to middle of each year. 2	Births.		Deaths under One Year of Age.		Deaths at all ages, Total.		Deaths in Public Institutions. 9	Deaths of non- residents regis- tered in district. 10	Deaths of resi- dents registered beyond district. 11	Deaths at all ages, Nett.	
		Number. 3	Rate.* 4	Number. 5	Rate per 1000 births registered. 6	Number. 7	Rate.* 8				Number. 12	Rate.* 13
1895	20,507	546	26·6	77	141	329	15·6					
1896	20,292	511	25·1	49	95·8	260	12·8					
1897	19,349	520	26·8	62	119·2	281	14·5					
1898	19,134	482	25·1	72	149·3	293	15·3					
1899	18,919	458	24·2	48	104·8	274	14·4					
1900	18,704	453	24·2	53	116·9	273	14·5					
1901	18,487	432	23·3	54	125	244	13·1					
1902	18,487	450	24·3	38	84·4	251	13·5					
1903	18,487	414	22·3	51	123·1	240	12·9					
1904	18,487	411	22·2	32	77·8	257	13·9					
Averages for years 1895-1904	19,085	467	24·4	53	113·7	270	14·0					
1905	18,487	428	23	47	110	245	13·2					

* Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

NOTE.—The deaths to be included in Column 7 of this table are the whole of those registered during the year as having actually occurred within the district or division. The deaths to be included in Column 12 are the number in Column 7, corrected by the subtraction of the number in Column 10 and the addition of the number in Column 11.

By the term “Non-residents” is meant persons brought into the district on account of sickness or infirmity, and dying in public institutions there; and by the term “Residents” is meant persons who have been taken out of the district on account of sickness or infirmity, and have died in public institutions elsewhere.

The “Public institutions” to be taken into account for the purposes of these Tables are those into which persons are habitually received on account of sickness or infirmity, such as hospitals, workhouses and lunatic asylums. A list of the Institutions in respect of the deaths in which corrections have been made should be given on the back of this Table.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water), 142,263 acres. Total population at all ages, 18,487. Number of inhabited houses 4,430. Average number of persons per house 4·1. At Census of 1901,

TABLE II.

RURAL DISTRICT OF LOUTH.

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YEAR.	BINBROOK.				LOUTH (Rural).				SALTPLEET.				TETNEY.				WITHERN.			
	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.
1895...	3684	104	44	...	3754	95	54	...	4642	113	80	...	4456	117	77	...	3978	104	78	...
1896...	3627	100	47	...	3713	87	50	...	4596	112	39	...	4421	107	66	...	3941	105	58	...
1897...	3570	99	40	10	3669	98	47	10	4550	121	73	17	4386	130	81	14	3176	72	47	11
1898...	3513	96	62	21	3629	97	39	14	4504	119	79	12	4351	97	73	19	3139	73	40	6
1899...	3457	90	46	6	3587	65	51	10	4458	112	68	11	4316	132	70	17	3102	59	39	4
1900...	3400	77	51	8	3547	101	43	14	4412	112	74	12	4281	89	61	10	3065	74	44	8
1901...	3344	77	49	11	3503	77	39	8	4366	98	64	13	4246	113	67	16	3028	67	25	6
1902...	3344	84	32	4	3503	64	36	5	4366	113	61	7	4246	83	65	10	3028	106	57	12
1903...	3344	83	45	10	3503	74	41	11	4366	102	75	19	4246	101	50	8	3028	54	29	3
1904...	3344	81	48	7	3503	80	42	9	4366	90	69	5	4246	91	58	3	3028	69	40	3
Averages of Years 1895 to 1904.	3462	89	46	9	3591	83	44	10	4462	109	68	12	4319	106	66	12	3251	78	45	7
1905...	3344	77	37	9	3503	90	37	8	4366	85	61	12	4246	111	60	9	3028	64	50	9

NOTES.—(A) The separate localities adopted for this table should be areas of which the populations are obtainable from the census returns, such as wards, parishes or groups of parishes, or registration sub-districts. Block 1 may, if desired, be used for the whole district; and blocks 2, 3, &c., for the several localities. In small districts without recognised divisions of known population this Table need not be filled up.

(B) Deaths of residents occurring in public institutions beyond the district are to be included in sub-columns c of this table, and those of non-residents registered in public institutions in the district excluded. (See note on Table I. as to meaning of terms "resident" and "non-resident.")

(C) Deaths of residents occurring in public institutions, whether within or without the district, are to be allotted to the respective localities according to the addresses of the deceased.

(D) Care should be taken that the gross totals of the several columns in this Table respectively equal the corresponding totals for the whole districts in Tables I. and IV.; thus, the totals of sub-columns A, B, and c should agree with the figures for the year in the columns 2, 3, and 12, respectively, of Table I.; the gross total of the sub-columns c should agree with the total of column 2 in Table IV., and the gross total of sub-columns b with the total of column 3 in Table IV.

TABLE III.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE Notified during the Year 1905.										RURAL DISTRICT OF LOUTH.				
NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	Cases notified in whole district.						Total Cases notified in each Locality							
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.					Binbrook	Louth Rural	Saltfleet	Tetney	Withern			
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65						65 and upwards		
Small-pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria ...	12	1	6	3	2	...	...	2	7	1	...	
Membranous croup...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ...	5	...	...	...	2	3	...	...	3	2	...
Scarlet fever ...	18	1	13	3	1	...	1	6	6	5	...			
Typhus fever ...	...	...	5	4	2	...	1	2	2	5	...	
Enteric fever ...	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Relapsing fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Continued fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	46	2	24	10	7	3	2	10	18	13				

TABLE IV.

RURAL DISTRICT OF LOUTH.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1905.

Causes of Death.	Deaths in or belonging to whole District at subjoined ages.							Deaths in Localities (at all ages).				
	All Ages.	Under 1	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards	Bin-brook.	Louth Rural.	Salt-fleet.	Tetney.	Withern.
Small-pox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Scarlet fever	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Whooping-cough	8	6	1	1	...	...	...	4	...	2	2	...
Diphtheria & membranous croup	8	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	...
Croup ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fever { Typhus	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	2	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	1
	Other continued	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Epidemic Influenza	9	1	2	...	...	3	3	2	2	3	2	...
Cholera ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhœa	3	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
Enteritis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other septic diseases ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis(Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	14	...	...	...	2	11	1	3	1	6	1	3
Other tubercular diseases	8	2	4	2	...	...	...	1	4	1	2	...
Cancer, malignant disease	11	...	...	...	...	3	8	1	3	2	3	2
Bronchitis	11	8	...	...	...	1	2	2	1	5	3	...
Pneumonia	3	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	2	...	1	...
Pleurisy ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other diseases of Respiratory organs	10	2	4	...	2	2	...	2	2	...	2	4
Alcoholism	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cirrhosis of liver }	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Venereal diseases	9	9	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	3	3
Premature birth ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diseases and accidents of parturition ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Heart Diseases	34	...	...	1	...	7	26	3	...	6	15	10
Accidents	4	1	...	...	...	1	2	2	..	1	1	...
Suicides	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...
Old Age	34	...	...	...	...	...	34	4	5	7	7	11
All other causes	77	15	6	2	2	21	31	12	15	26	13	11
All causes	245	47	19	11	6	55	107	37	37	61	60	50

TABLE V.

RURAL DISTRICT OF LOUTH.

INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1905.

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

Cause of Death.	Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1-2 Months.	2-3 Months.	3-4 Months.	4-5 Months.	5-6 Months.	6-7 Months.	7-8 Months.	8-9 Months.	9-10 Months.	10-11 Months.	11-12 Months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
All Causes:																	
Certified	42
Uncertified	5
Common Infectious Diseases:																	
Small-pox
Chicken-pox
Measles	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Scarlet Fever
Diphtheria: Croup
Whooping Cough	1	1	...	3	1	...	...	6
Diarrhoeal Diseases:																	
Diarrhoea, all forms	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Enteritis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>)
Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal Catarrh	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Wasting Diseases:																	
Premature Birth	8	1	...	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Congenital Defects	1	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Injury at Birth
Want of Breast-milk
Atrophy, Dibility, Marasmus	1	1	1	...	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	6
Tuberculous Diseases:																	
Tuberculous Meningitis
Tuberculous Peritonitis: Tabes Mesenterica	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Other Tuberculous Diseases	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Erysipelas
Syphilis	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Rickets
Meningitis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>)
Convulsions
Bronchitis	1	1	3	1	...	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	8
Laryngitis
Pneumonia
Suffocation, overlaying	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Other Causes	1	1	...	2	...	1	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	1	7
	10	3	1		14	6	7	2	3	2	4	1	4	1	1	1	47

Births in the year,—legitimate, 403; illegitimate, 25. Deaths from all Causes at all Ages, 245. Population, estimated to middle of 1905, 18,487.

